

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 1-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claim 22 has been objected to. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 22. Claim 22 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-21 remain for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Claim 22 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner has indicated that the inclusion of a layer of pressure sensitive adhesive disposed on the side of the backing opposite the layer of heat-activated adhesive renders the claimed invention patentable over the prior art.

Claim 22 depends directly from claim 1 (the base claim). The subject matter of claim 22 has been incorporated into claim 1, and claim 22 has been cancelled. Because the Examiner has indicated that claim 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and because claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 22, claim 1 is allowable.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of several U.S. patents.

As indicated above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 22 in accordance with the Examiner's indication that claim 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants assert that such an amendment renders claim 1 non-obvious.

Any claim that depends from a claim that is non-obvious is itself necessarily non-obvious. Claims 2-21 depend from claim 1. Because claims 2-21 depend from claim 1,

and because claims that depend from a non-obvious claim are themselves non-obvious, claims 2-21 are necessarily non-obvious. Therefore, claims 2-21 are allowable. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn and claims 2-21 should be passed to issuance.

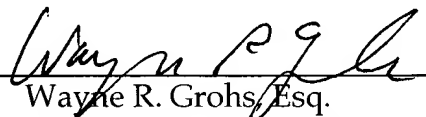
Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing Amendment and Remarks is fully responsive to the Office Action and that the claims herein are allowable to Applicants. In view of the foregoing points, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the present application, remove the rejections, and allow the application to issue.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Enclosed herewith is a Request for Three-Month Extension of Time. Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 13-0235 with the fees associated for this Request, as well as for any additional fees that may be owed.

Respectfully submitted,

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